Desired Conditions for the Jordan Resource Area

The long term goal of the preferred alternative and assumed outcome for purposes of analysis in the RMP Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), is that ***70% or more (approximately 2.44 million acres)*** of these potential big sagebrush communities would provide habitat with the composition and structure ***capable of supporting sage grouse and other wildlife that use sagebrush habitats*** defined as Class 3,4, and 5 habitats in Appendix F of the FEIS (Volume 2; pp 289-304). ***The remaining 30% or less*** of this 3.49 million acre pool of habitat ***could be comprised of grassland communities*** defined as Class 1 and 2 habitats in Appendix F (e.g. crested wheatgrass types or recently burned areas where sagebrush re-colonization is either absent or present at <5% canopy cover). These Class 1 and 2 habitats would therefore account for about 1.05 million acres or less of the SEORMP area. The FEIS analyzed different outcomes of Class 3,4, and 5 types and their consequences to wildlife that use sagebrush habitats.

Desired Conditions at the Geographic Management Area and Livestock Grazing Allotment Pasture Level

Structural characteristics and general distribution at mid scales (GMA's):
Shrub cover capable of supporting the life history requirements of sage grouse and other wildlife that use sagebrush habitats should be present at multiple scales, over a large area, and in a variety of spatial arrangements ***(e.g., at a landscape level and with connectivity present)***. This should include a central core of sagebrush habitat which is present in large contiguous blocks as well as some other habitat arrangements such as islands, corridors, and mosaic patterns. Each of these patterns have significance to wildlife within geographic areas.

Shrub cover should be present that shows some mix of height and age classes but with an overall emphasis on the presence of communities with shrubs in a mature structural status per Maser et al. (1984).

Wildlife objectives for sagebrush communities in individual pastures, allotments, and GMA's will be determined on the basis of factors such as: (1) presence of sage grouse and their variable life history needs, (2) existing native shrub cover patterns and characteristics within each GMA, (3) the frequency and reasonably foreseeable likelihood of fire, and (4) locations of seedings and their shrub overstory conditions.

Big sagebrush shrub cover on native range at fine scales (pastures):
Shrub overstories capable of supporting sage grouse and other species that use sagebrush habitats ***should be present on at least 50 to 75percent of the surface acreage of livestock management pastures capable of supporting big sagebrush communities.*** For example: a 1000-acre native-range pasture that is a Wyoming, mountain, or great basin sagebrush type should provide shrub cover capable of supporting sage grouse and other species that use sagebrush habitats on at least 500 to 750 acres (Classes 3,4, and 5).

Big sagebrush shrub cover on seeded range at fine scales (pastures):
Shrub overstories capable of supporting sage grouse and other species that use sagebrush habitats ***should be present on at least 25 to 50 percent of the surface acreage of livestock management pastures capable of supporting a big sagebrush community***. For example: a 1000-acre seeded pasture that is a Wyoming, mountain, or great basin sagebrush habitat type should provide adequate shrub cover capable of supporting sage grouse and other species that use sagebrush habitats on at least 250 to 500 acres (Classes 3,4, and 5).

Herbaceous understory on native range at fine scales (pastures):
Herbaceous understory composition throughout most native range habitats should exhibit ***multiple species of native forbs and grasses consistent with site potential at mid, late, or potential natural community ecological conditions***.

Herbaceous understory on seeded range at fine scales (pastures):
Herbaceous cover composition in most seedings should support ***one or more adapted forb species***.

Grassland and Shrubland Structural Condition Classes

Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan, Volume 2, Appendix F, April 2001

- **Class 1 – 0% shrub cover**
- **Class 2 – traces to 5% shrub cover**
- **Class 3 - >5% to 15% shrub cover**
- **Class 4 - >15% to 25% shrub cover**
- **Class 5 - >25% shrub cover**

- **Combinations of Classes by dominance and sub-dominance of 1 through 5 are possible**
- **Each Class possesses a habitat value for wildlife; even Class 4 and 5 types that are frequently considered land treatment candidates**